

# **UNAPPROVED**

## **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**The Cumberland School Committee held a workshop on Thursday, December 9, 2010 at the Cumberland High School Library, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.**

**Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Lisa Beaulieu, Linda Teel, John Gibbons, Daniel Pedro, Erika Sanzi, Earl Wood(arrived at 6:46 p.m.)**

**Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed., Superintendent**

### **Agenda Item #1: Convening of Meeting**

**Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.**

### **Agenda Item #2: Approval of Agenda**

**Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0 (Mr. Wood was not at the meeting yet).**

### **Agenda Item #3: Discussion on “The Key Work of School Boards” Guidebook**

**Mrs. Beaulieu handed out a couple of handouts (Chapter 2 Vision and Vision Self-Assessment 2008) to each member and asked them to read over the first page and then they would discuss it. Mr. Mutter asked about the vision statement of the SC and wanted to know if it**

had to be posted – Mrs. Beaulieu said yes it should be because the SC always needs to promote it. Dr. Morelle explained that the SC statement is separate from another vision statement that lists what the government will do, what parents will do, what teachers will do, etc., the one that Mrs. Beaulieu passed out was adopted by the SC but not amended to the Cumberland Public Schools Vision Statement that Dr. Morelle was referring to. After reading the statement Mr. Mutter said that he needed something that would inspire him and he did not think that what he had in front of him would in fact do that – he did not want to be critical, but thought that it needed to be redone. Mrs. Beaulieu stated that looking at the self assessment that they had previously completed, they were only partially achieving goals – they were not promoting that vision statement – it did not sit in the room with them. Mrs. Teel asked what exactly is the vision and what are we trying to get to? Mrs. Beaulieu said that you don't see it in the actual statement, but there were actions to be done regarding teachers, technology, programs, etc. Dr. Morelle stated that in any organization there is evolution and so we need to evolve again – where do we want to be in 3-5 years – she went on to say that it took about 35 people to come up and approve the vision statement and she believes that got the district to where it is today. Mr. Wood said that in 2011 it will be time to redo the strategic plan and the vision statement – the two go together. The entire SC is saying that it needs a new vision – Mr. Wood said that everyone needs to believe in the beliefs of the SC to make it successful. Dr. Morelle noted that in the past when it was time to put together a strategic plan, they would take previous

plans/statements and ask for opinions – this would lead you to the development of the next strategic plan.

There was conversation back and forth regarding an assessment that Mrs. Beaulieu passed out and Mrs. Sanzi did not believe the assessment exercise to be productive because they really do not have a vision yet, they only got sworn in last month. Mrs. Sanzi believes that this committee needs to start from scratch and develop their own unique vision statement. Mrs. Beaulieu then suggested that they go through and read the statement and scratch out what they don't like and highlight what they do like. Mrs. Beaulieu said the vision needed to “anchor” us in some of our decision making. Mr. Mutter thought that it needed to be something that we will all believe in and he further noted that we will all be going through some tough times ahead. Mr. Pedro added that even if we have no money and have to get through tough times ahead, we still need to get out basic education goals – that is one of our beliefs.

Mrs. Beaulieu said that when they did the strategic plan they had groups of stakeholders there giving input – there were students, teachers, parents, etc., every one of them had a part in it. She then went on to say that they will review the vision statement again at the next workshop. Mr. Mutter thought that they should come up with something that the SC members can recite – something to be remembered easily – Mrs. Teal thought that the SC vision is how to get their(the community, teachers, etc.,)vision to a reality – she said she hopes that the SC will be a big part of the next strategic plan and thinks that it will be a 2-3 year plan – not a five year plan.

**Mr. Mutter thinks the SC should have some homework – thinks that each member should come up with their own little paragraph/vision statement. The SC members agreed to have something for the next workshop.**

**Agenda Item #4: Adjournment**

**Mr. Pedro made the motion to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Wood, approved 7-0. The workshop was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.**

**Workshop minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony**